

Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:1,7

Topic: When To Keep Silent

INTRODUCTION: The Word of God has a lot to say about what we _____ and about when we should speak or not speak. Today we shall look at some Scriptures that give us instruction about when we need to keep our _____ shut and not say anything.

I. THE TONGUE – TROUBLE:

A. Untameable:

1. The Word of God states that the tongue is a small _____ of the body but it has a great influence and _____ to be destructive. Jas. 3:1-5
2. Man has the capability to tame _____ animals, but yet the Scripture states that no individual is able to tame the tongue. Jas 3:6-8
3. Unfortunately, the Apostle was aware that some people used their _____ to worship God, but also used that same _____ to curse at other people. Jas 3:9-12

B. Needs To Be Spirit Controlled:

1. In order for us to be careful with our mouth, we need to be prayed up _____ so that our heart and mouth will be under the _____ of the Spirit of God. Mt. 12:33-37
2. When we are filled with the Spirit of God, we will produce the _____ of the Spirit and our mouth will speak good _____ that will edify and bless others. Is. 50:4; Col. 4:6

II. WHEN TO KEEP SILENT:

A. When You Are Angry:

1. When people get angry, they often say things that they don't really _____, and often later regret what they have _____. Pr. 14:17
2. When you get angry, it is best to keep your _____ shut, and not say anything until you have a chance to cool down, otherwise you may end up in a situation having to apologize for your _____. Pr. 14:29
Jas 1:19

B. When You Don't Have All The Facts:

1. Sometimes people will make a hasty judgment about someone or something _____ having all the facts about the situation, thus ending _____ making an incorrect assumption. Pr. 18:13
2. People who make hasty judgments about other _____ and situations and speak words that end up being totally incorrect will lose the confidence and _____ of others. Pr. 29:20

C. When You Haven't Verified The Story:

1. The term "fake news" got its roots from too many incidents where false _____ began to be circulated by some reporter before a story was substantiated, and it ended up being untrue.
2. In the case of a God fearing _____ of God, it is better to wait until you have verified a story before telling it to _____ else, otherwise you may be spreading a lie. Dt. 17:6
3. Unverified rumors have harmed the reputation of other _____ many times, but a child of God must not be guilty of hurting another individual by opening the _____ to help spread it. Eph. 4:29

D. When Your Words May Offend A Weaker Brother or Sister:

1. There are some things that you may _____ with a mature brother or sister in Christ and they will be

able to handle it but if the same information is _____ with a new convert or someone immature in Christ, it may offend them and cause them to stumble and lose out with God. Mk. 9:42

2. Unfortunately, unwise children of God have opened their mouths and _____ things to new people that caused disillusionment and discouragement which led to them leaving the _____ and giving up on their walk with God.

E. When Your Words Would Be A Poor Reflection of Jesus Who Lives In You:

1. Once we have taken on the Name of Jesus Christ and have begun to _____ Him, we gain a reputation that we are a Christian and people will expect _____ to come out of our mouths.

2. If we are to reflect Jesus Christ, our words must fall in line with how he _____ to insults and false accusations, and to not hurl the insults back at those who mistreat us. I Pt. 2:21-23

F. When You Are Discouraged & In A Negative Mood:

1. Ten discouraged and negative talking _____ caused hundreds of thousands of people to miss their inheritance in the promised land and die in the wilderness. Num. 13:30-33; Dt. 1:28

2. If you are discouraged and in a negative mindset, it is better for you to not _____ your sentiments to others unless they are mature, and you are looking to them for _____. I Cor. 14:26

G. When The Conversation Is About Vain Babblings:

1. There are some conversations that are useless to be involved in because there are no _____ to the questions being discussed, and it becomes a waste of _____ and energy. I Tim. 1:4

2. Those sort of discussions do not edify anybody and often lead to arguments where _____ may even get _____ with one another. Titus 3:9, 2 Tim. 2:16

CONCLUSION: We can open our mouths and _____ encouragement and hope to someone or we can open our mouths and do damage and _____ to those around us. May we be wise children of God and know when to _____ and when to keep silent.